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INTRODUCTION

SMALL-SCALE JOURNALS IN A GLOBAL SCIENCE ECOSYSTEM

In recent decades, scientific publishing has become increasingly globalized. Large international journals, high-impact metrics, and rapid dissemination platforms direct scientific interaction. While this global ecosystem has certainly accelerated information and knowledge exchange, it has also created challenges - particularly for research conducted in specific regional context and the journals that serve as its primary channels of communication. In this context, journals coming from small publishers play a vital and often underestimated role in advancing local, regional and global science.

Agricultural sciences, by their very nature, are deeply contextual. Climate conditions, soil characteristics, genetic resources, cropping systems, socio-economic backgrounds, and policy frames vary significantly across countries. Research that addresses these specific agro-conditions may not always fit the thematic scope or priorities of large, global journals, yet such research work is essential for sustainable development, food security, and rural resilience. Small-scale academic journals provide a necessary platform for disseminating scientifically sound research that is locally grounded and globally informative.

The Journal of Agricultural and Plant Sciences (JAPS) was established with precisely this mission in mind: to support high-quality research that responds to local and regional agricultural challenges while contributing to broader scientific understanding. Local data, long-term field studies, and region-specific innovations often form the foundation upon which comparative and global analyses are built. Without these contributions, the global scientific narrative risks becoming incomplete or unfair toward a limited set of agro-ecological and socio-economic contexts.

Over the past 25 years, Journal of Agricultural and Plant Sciences (JAPS) has evolved from a national journal published by Institute of Southern Crops to journal managed by international Editorial Board. Regardless of its publication language or modest size, Journal of Agricultural and Plant Sciences (JAPS) remains firmly committed to maintaining high editorial and peer-review standards. Manuscripts submitted to the journal are evaluated not only for their relevance but also for their scientific contribution, transparency, and devotion to ethical publishing practices. At the same time, Journal of Agricultural and Plant Sciences (JAPS) actively encourages submissions that address local or regional issues with broader impact. Authors are encouraged to position their findings within the wider scientific literature, demonstrating how local research can inform global debates.

Open access publishing further strengthens the role of small-scale journals in the global ecosystem. By ensuring that research findings are freely available, journals like Journal of Agricultural and Plant Sciences (JAPS) enhance visibility, inclusiveness, and knowledge transfer - especially to researchers, practitioners and policymakers, in developing and transition economies. However, open access should never be confused with lowered standards; rather, it demands even greater editorial thoroughness.

In the years to come, the future of scientific publishing depends on diversity - of perspectives, methodologies, and publication venues. Global science succeeds when local voices are heard, respected, and critically engaged. Journals such as Journal of Agricultural and Plant Sciences (JAPS) serve as bridges between local realities and international knowledge, encouraging dialogue that is both scientifically robust and socially relevant.

As we present Volume 23, Number 2, we extend our gratitude to the authors, reviewers, and editorial board members whose dedication makes each issue possible. We also invite researchers to view Journal of Agricultural and Plant Sciences (JAPS) not merely as a publication channel, but as a collaborative space committed to advancing agricultural and plant sciences through responsible, relevant, and rigorous research.

**Editorial Board,
December, 2025**

**Editor in Chief,
Prof. d-r Fidanka Trajkova**

